

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities

3b. GSA

Committee No.

34

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

03/13/2019

6. Expected Renewal Date

03/13/2021

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 8105(b)

13. Effective Date

08/02/1973

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

09/30/2018

Report Title

Recommendations from the 2018 Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

On September 25-26, the Committee received appropriate briefings and presentations on current seismic, natural hazards, and fire safety issues that are particularly relevant to facilities owned and leased by the Department. The Committee also developed appropriate recommendations for updating VA Seismic Design Handbook H-18-8 with revised facility occupancy categories/definitions and to reference updated industry standards, fire protection of steel columns in interstitial spaces, seismic risk assessment techniques for VA's building inventory, further study to protect VA facilities against high wind and inundation hazards, and reviewing the latest developments in project delivery for methods that could apply to VA construction projects.

Start

End

09/25/2018 - 09/26/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$5,092.00	\$15,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$3,860.00	\$4,000.00
18d. Total	\$41,952.00	\$55,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.20	0.20

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee discusses various current issues, for example: a) updates to VA seismic design standards, including definitions and designations of facility occupancy categories; b) progress report on installation of multi-channel structural health monitoring systems in VA buildings; c) seismic screening and ranking of VA's utility plant buildings at highest risk; d) risk from high wind and inundation hazards; and e) progress report on the study of fire protection of columns in interstitial spaces. The Committee continues to serve VA in a highly professional manner by assisting VA's Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) in all matters of structural safety for the development of construction standards that make VA buildings safe, in particular from natural hazards, e.g. earthquakes, severe storms, fire, etc. Since its inception, the Committee has made significant contributions to the upgrading of VA Seismic Design Requirements H-18-8, which is periodically revised under the guidance of the Committee. These activities enable the Committee to advise the Secretary on manners to improve healthcare delivery by allowing VA to modernize assets and infrastructure (aligns to the Secretary's priority to implement the MISSION Act) by striving to ensure the construction of safe and operational VA facilities after hazardous events.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership is comprised of a practicing structural engineer and one research structural engineer who are experts in structural resistance to earthquake, and other natural disasters; a geotechnical engineer; a healthcare architect with expertise in fire-safety; a fire protection engineer; and such other individuals the Secretary deems advisable. When new members are sought, membership solicitations are made open to the public in the Federal Register and professional organizations. Ex-officio members include the Executive Director, Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) and Veterans

Health Administration (VHA) Deputy Director and Fire Protection Program Manager, Office of Occupational Safety & Health Management.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee meets as necessary to perform its functions, but not less than once a year. Its services will be necessary during the duration of VA's programs to build, remodel, or inspect facilities over which VA has direct jurisdiction or for which it contracts. In FY 2018, the Committee held one meeting on September 25-26, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The current Committee is composed of a panel of experts, in the fields of structural engineering, seismic risk, geotechnical engineering, architecture, and fire safety. The Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) strives to obtain world class experts from industry and academia to provide expert advice on such important matters that affect the VA construction program and safety of existing facilities in the event of natural and manmade disasters, such as earthquakes and fires. The Advisory Committee is unique as it reports to the Secretary, providing expert, objective advice to CFM, that otherwise could not be procured through standard acquisition methods.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The committee meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

The Committee reinforces VA's credibility, when dealing with outside parties, such as the Joint Committee on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, etc.

Designated Federal Officer

Donald L. Myers Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Costa, Anthony	09/17/2018		Acting Executive Director, Office of Construction & Facilities Management	Ex Officio Member
Egan, John	03/02/2016	02/28/2019	John A. Egan Consulting Senior Principal Geotechnical Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gillengerten, John	03/02/2016	02/28/2020	John D. Gillengerten Consulting Structural Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gregory, James	03/02/2016	02/28/2020	Architect, Health Facility Consulting, LLC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hart, Sarina	03/02/2016	02/28/2019	Manager and Senior Fire Protection Engineer, Koffel Associates	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Klein, David	10/01/2015		VHA Deputy Director and Fire Protection Program Manager	Ex Officio Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The Committee provides advice to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs on matters of structural safety in the construction and remodeling of VA facilities against natural and man made disasters.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Committee provides structural safety advice to the Office of Construction & Facilities Management in the area of new construction and in mitigating risks to existing structures from earthquake, fire, and other natural disasters.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

104

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2018.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

91%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

96 out of 104 recommendations have been implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

8%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

8 out of 104 recommendations are in progress.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Agency officials brief the Committee on actions taken to implement previous recommendations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities



Reallocated resources



Issued new regulation



Proposed legislation



Approved grants or other payments



Other

☐

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO

☒

Online Agency Web Site

☒

Online Committee Web Site

☐

Online GSA FACA Web Site

☒

Publications

☒

Other

☐

Access Comments

No comment.